

North Sound Mental Health Administration

Regional Support Network for Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties
Improving the mental health and well being of individuals and families in our communities

117 North First Street, Suite 8 • Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360.416.7013 • 800.684.3555 • Fax 360.416.7017 • Email nsmha@nsmha.org • Web Site <http://nsmha.org>

NSMHA Contract Memorandum 2011-008

Date: November 2, 2011

To: Tom Sebastian, Compass Health
Becky Olson-Hernandez, Compass Health
Pam Hutchinson, Compass Health
Dean Wight, Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Center
David Sager, Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Center
Sandarah Amun, Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Center
Ken Stark, Snohomish County Human Services Director
Carola Schmid, Snohomish County Human Services
Phil Smith, Volunteers of America
Pat Morris, Volunteers of America
Richard Wong, Volunteers of America

From: Margaret Rojas, Contracts Manager
Sandy Whitcutt, Quality Specialist
Greg Long, Deputy Director

Subject: Single Bed Certification Changes and Boarding

Due to the increase across the State in boarding of individuals, there is a need to identify those individuals who are not receiving care in an inpatient psychiatric facility. DBHR is now requiring increased data reporting related to the boarding of individuals who have **not** been detained to inpatient psychiatric facilities. In an effort to better capture this information, North Sound Mental Health Administration (NSMHA) will expand the use of the Single Bed Certification form to include requesting a Single Bed Certification for all Emergency Department (ED) and for admissions to non-psychiatric hospitals. This will better capture data for all of the individuals who are boarded in our region.

NSMHA currently capture Single Bed Certification information, which has been a one-time waiver that allows the Designated Mental Health Professional (DMHP) to detain the individual to a bed when there are no resources available. This has been reported by the DMHP offices to Volunteers of America (VOA). VOA then submits this request to Western State Hospital (WSH) for approval and then sends the data to NSMHA. Currently, this practice has been for hospitals without and Evaluation and Treatment Center on their campus and for community hospitals needing certification from WSH when an individual is placed on a 90-day Most Restrictive Order (waiting on a WSH bed).

November 2, 2011

Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) is directing all Regional Support Networks (RSN), including NSMHA and their Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Service Providers, to expand how they use the Single Bed Certification to cover **people who are boarded in an ED or on medical wards** even if the hospital has a psychiatric unit. The Single Bed Certification form has been revised to capture the additional information DBHR is requiring. This information is expanded to include the **boarding date, co-morbid issues and transfer information**. The DMHP offices (possibly the court liaison) will need to submit this additional information to NSMHA after the individual has been transferred to a psychiatric unit or discharged.

Single Bed Certification Reporting Process

1. DMHP offices will continue to complete and submit Single Bed Certifications on any individual meeting detention criteria and not being placed into a psychiatric unit with the expanded information on the revised Single Bed Certification form. This information is to be faxed to VOA.
2. DMHP offices need to keep a copy of the Single Bed Certification on the individual who has been boarded. The office will track the individual's length of boarded days. There is an addendum section on the Single Bed Certification form that will be completed.
3. The Single Bed Certification on the individual with the addendum information will need to be faxed to NSMHA.
4. This data will be compiled and submitted by NSMHA to DBHR, as well as possible, after the posting of this memo and no later than December 1, 2011.